

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a communications network and terminals connected thereto, said method, comprising:
 - a) establishing a data flow between a customer terminal and another data terminal, the data flow conforming to a best-effort packet-routing protocol; and
 - b) subsequently initiating from the customer terminal the use of ~~the~~ a switched virtual circuit through the network for the data flow;

wherein only when and if the user subsequently elects to initiate the use of a switched virtual circuit does the network change the routing method for data flowing to or from the customer terminal.
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 including a step, prior to step (b), of communicating to the customer terminal data indicating the availability of a switched virtual circuit in the network for ~~the~~ said data flow.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, in which ~~the~~ said data indicating the availability of a switched virtual circuit comprises a URL having a format specific to resources located on a circuit-connected network.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the packet-routing protocol is Internet Protocol.
5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the switched virtual circuit is established in an ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) network.
6. (Previously Presented) A terminal for use in a method according to claim 1, the terminal including a packet data interface for connection to a communications network, and means for initiating a switched virtual circuit in the communications network, which switched virtual circuit, in use, provides a circuit-connected path for packet data communicated via the said packet data interface.
7. (Original) A communications network including one or more terminals according to claim 6.
8. (New) A communications network for use in a method according to claim 1, the communications network having:
 - a customer terminal connected thereto including a packet data interface for connection to the communications network, and
 - means for initiating a switched virtual circuit in the communications network, which switched virtual circuit, in use, provides a circuit-connected path for packet data communicated via the said packet data interface,

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wherein the network is arranged such that only when and if the user elects to initiate the use of a switched virtual circuit does the network change the routing method for data flowing to or from the customer terminal.